

WEATHER FORECAST:
Fair and Cold Tonight.
Full Report on Page Two.

The Washington Times

LAST AND
HOME EDITION

NUMBER 8091.

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 25, 1914.

PRICE ONE CENT.

TRIAL BOARD EXONERATES SULLIVAN

RAY OF HOPE IN DECISION THAT VILLA CAN KEEP BENTON'S BODY

State Department Will Insist
That Widow and American
Officials Be Permitted to
Examine Remains.

Bryan Confers With Senate
Foreign Relations Commit-
tee on Conditions Surround-
ing Killing of Englishman.

One ray of hope penetrated the Mexican situation today and relieved to some extent the tension caused by Villa's hitherto refusal to give up the body of Benton, the slain English ranchman. The United States may amend its original demand. It may accept Villa's offer to permit the widow and relatives of the dead man to visit the cemetery and view the body in the presence of official witnesses of the United States. Should this be done, it is probable that an army surgeon will be designated as one of the representatives of the Government. In this way, the United States could learn the manner in which the man met his death.

Secretary Bryan is before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. It is believed that he has laid this proposition before the members of the committee for their views.

Examination Is Demanded.

One thing seems certain from the attitude of Administration officials this morning: Villa's offer will not be accepted unless every opportunity is given for a thorough examination of the body and unless the English government is satisfied with this compromise. England may insist upon the original proposal in order that the body may be buried where Mrs. Benton desires. Regarding the ten Americans whom Villa was reported to have taken from Juarez to Chihuahua, the rebel general says that when he rejected them as recruits he offered to send them back to the United States on a special train, but that they refused and are now at large in Chihuahua. Consul Letcher reports that he has been unable to locate them.

Villa insists that he has no knowledge of Gustav Bauch, the German-American, supposed to have been sentenced to death at Chihuahua. Officials of that State insist to Letcher that he is not a person there.

O'Shaughnessy reports the liberation, at his request, of John Hinnant, of Texas, imprisoned at Saltillo.

Consul Marion Letcher, at Chihuahua, reported to the State Department early this morning that Villa had unconditionally refused to deliver the body to anyone. This refusal was accompanied by a statement that the relatives of the dead man would be permitted to go to the cemetery and view the remains.

Villa states he will give the necessary order for exhumation whenever he is informed as to the time it will be required.

And right there the entire situation rests this morning.

Has Resources Left.

Secretary Bryan does not believe he has exhausted all the resources at his command to bring about a clearing up of the situation that has suddenly arisen in connection with the Benton killing. The Secretary will not deny that the situation today is serious; that it has within it jingo elements, which, if seized upon could be portended to create a crisis of grave proportions. But Mr. Bryan does not believe, and has so stated, that the conditions in Mexico or the relations between England and the United States toward Mexico constitute in themselves a menace to the policy of the Administration.

It may be necessary, the State Department authorities admit, to use stronger measures than have yet been adopted to obtain the body of Benton. If England persists in her demand that the body be turned over to her representative, Mr. Bryan today would not discuss this phase of the situation.

Bryan Tells Senators

Of Mexican Situation

The gravity of the Mexican situation was indicated today when Secretary of State Bryan appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and for an hour or more went over the details of what is occurring in Mexico.

Secretary Bryan, on leaving the committee room, said that he had set before the committee the facts in regard to Mexico and told the Senators what the committee admitted the gravity of the Mexican situation, in view of the refusal of Villa to give up the body of Benton.

Scope Of 8-Hour Law Is In Doubt; Court to Answer

Though Employees of Women Have Hastened to
Comply, Nobody Seems to Know Who Is
Affected or Exempted by Clauses.

With the eight-hour work-day law for women in operation, it became apparent to Washington attorneys today that it would be impossible to determine just whom the bill includes and just whom it exempts until the courts have passed on the question.

The bill went into effect today and all the large employers of women, including the department stores, the laundries, and the telephone company, put the eight-hour shift into operation.

Hundreds of employers of women, however, were puzzled to know what they should do, inasmuch as they were unable to determine whether they were included within the terms of the law. In this list were proprietors of large apartment houses, dressmaking establishments, clubs, and others not mentioned in the list of occupations given in the bill.

At the office of the Corporation Counsel it was said that no copy of the law had been received and no legal opinion as to its scope could be ventured. It was admitted, however, that inquiries had been made by scores of employers of women who wished to know if the law affected them.

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VESSEL IS RESCUED FROM POTOMAC ICE

Northumberland Resumes Trip
After Being Stalled Off Alex-
andria All Morning.

Shortly after 12:30 o'clock this afternoon, the steamer Northumberland was rescued from an ice-bound position off Alexandria, by the Government tug Choctaw and proceeded on her way to Baltimore, six hours late. The Choctaw nosed her way into the ice which had trapped the Northumberland, shortly after noon and circled the liner several times to splinter the ice.

The tug then led the way out to the channel, where the tides run strong and the Northumberland followed in her wake. It is believed she will have no further difficulty on her trip down the Potomac to the Chesapeake.

The Northumberland left Washington this morning at 6 o'clock with twenty-five or thirty passengers. The trip to Alexandria was slow, but the vessel was able to push through the ice which blocked the channel.

She made the Alexandria wharf with difficulty, and unloaded freight. When she headed out she went only a few hundred yards and stopped. Her engines were unable to break through the great masses of ice, and Captain Smith was forced to wait for relief.

Hill Visits President;

Foresees Business Boom

J. J. Hill, former president of the Great Northern railway, expressed to President Wilson today the greatest confidence in the business outlook of the country.

He told the President he had every reason to believe from careful observation that within a few months, business will be booming.

IN CONGRESS TODAY.

SENATE.

Met at noon. Secretary Bryan before Foreign Relations Committee on Mexico. Discussion of New Haven resolution renewed. Postoffice Committee has hearing on Jarce's post.

Subcommittee on District bill will report in favor of merger of gas companies.

Postoffice appropriation bill and parcels post further considered.

HOUSE.

Met at noon.

Routine business on Wednesday calendar considered.

Secretary McAdoo urged before Public Buildings Committee a new home for the Department of Justice.

Trust and Interstate Commerce Committee.

Congressman Alney of Pennsylvania introduced resolution asking reports from Administration on Mexican conditions.

Congressman Prouty introduced bill to tax intangible property in District.

JURY DEBATES ON H STREET KILLING

Testimony at Inquest Over
Body of Silbersdorff Strong-
ly Indicates Self-Defense.

SLAYER FAILS TO RELATE
HER STORY OF SHOOTING

Witnesses Declare They Had
Heard Man Threaten to 'Cut
Her Face to Ribbons.'

After listening nearly two hours to testimony in the inquest over the body of Charles Silbersdorff, who was shot by Miss Jennie Lewis in a rooming house at 935 H street yesterday, a coroner's jury at the District morgue is debating whether to free Miss Lewis or hold her for the grand jury.

The woman, acting on the advice of her counsel, Alfred D. Smith, did not take the witness stand, but testimony of all the witnesses made a strong case of self-defense for her.

The jury had been deliberating about half an hour when they asked for instructions as to whether they could return a qualified verdict. They were told that they were to return a verdict either holding or releasing the woman.

Crowd At Inquest.

The inquest attracted a large crowd of morbidly curious persons who filled the little courtroom in the morgue to overflowing, making it necessary to lock the doors and keep the crowds back. At the conclusion of the testimony of all the witnesses, Coroner Nevitt asked attorney Smith if he desired his client to make a statement. He replied that he did not think it necessary, and the case was given to the jury.

Miss Lewis was then taken in a witness room, where she anxiously awaited the verdict.

The first witness was Dr. Philip Newton, who was summoned to the house immediately after the shooting, by Lewis. Dr. Newton said he went to the room where the shooting took place, and found Miss Lewis on the floor, between the bed and the wall.

Overcoat Under Head.

He was fully dressed. An overcoat had been folded up and used to prop his head. Dr. Newton said life was extinct when he examined the body. He found wounds, one in the neck and the other in the cheek. There were several persons in the room, he said, and Mrs. Lewis, who told him she had done the shooting, was so hysterical she was unable to make a coherent statement.

The physician questioned her and she finally managed to tell him that she had killed the man.

(Continued on Fourth Page)

HARRISON AND MISS MALONE INDICTED

Indictments charging embezzlement were returned by the grand jury today against Sydney B. Harrison and Miss Alice E. Malone, former employees of N. L. Carpenter & Co., brokers, and who are alleged to have appropriated to their own use the proceeds from the sale of Reading Company stock and shares of the stock, valued at \$2,000 for Harrison and \$1,000 for Malone.

Harrison is indicted on two counts and a charge with selling, on December 19, three certificates for 200 shares of Reading stock, valued at \$2,000, for \$2,200, while Miss Malone is alleged to have sold one certificate for 100 shares of the stock, valued at \$1,000, for \$1,100. The indictment against her setting forth three counts.

The police have obtained no trace of the two alleged fugitives.

Harrison Armstrong, colored, was indicted on a charge of murder in connection with the killing of Martha Armstrong, his wife, on December 31. An indictment was also returned against Katherine Kennedy, charging her with a second offense of petit larceny from a department store.

Other indictments returned were: Forgery and uttering, Harry L. Washington; assault with a dangerous weapon, Charles Grant and Ernest Green; house-breaking, Max Chambers; non-support, John Hunter, Bernard West, and Lewis P. Farmer.

FIGURES IN FIRE HEARING

Chief FRANK J. WAGNER. Deputy Chief ANDREW J. SULLIVAN.



CHARGE NEGLIGENCE BY GREAT FALLS LINE

Cherrydale Residents, Aroused
by Schedule Change, Call
Mass Meeting to Protest.

Aroused at what they assert is a general disregard for the interests of the traveling public, residents of Cherrydale, Va., and nearby points along the Great Falls line of the Washington and Old Dominion railway are planning a mass meeting to oppose the change in schedules effected last Sunday. The meeting probably will be held at Cherrydale Friday evening.

Unless the first and last trains on the daily schedule are run at an earlier and later hour, respectively, the complainants declare that full twenty residents of Cherrydale alone will be compelled to move to Washington or lose their present positions. The majority of these are said to own their own homes.

Heretofore the last train out of Washington left Thirty-sixth and M streets northwest at 12:50 o'clock. When the change became effective this train was scheduled to leave at 12:20 o'clock. The car was used principally by employees of the night forces of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the Government Printing Office, and the War Department. The complaint was immediately made by these individuals that they could not leave their employment in time to catch this car.

W. B. Emmert, general manager of the road, said this afternoon that while the 12:50 train has never paid, when the change became effective there were several persons who would be inconvenienced he immediately gave orders for its restoration.

A objection has been taken to the fact that the first train into this city is now scheduled to reach Washington at 6 o'clock, instead of at 5:50, as heretofore. This change, it is declared, makes many of the passengers late at their places of employment. Mr. Emmert says that this train was substituted for two others, the 5:50 and the 6:10, neither of which paid.

The majority of the patrons, he added, do not have to be at their positions earlier than 7 o'clock.

Exception likewise is taken to the change from a thirty-minute to a fifty-minute schedule, which is termed inadequate to accommodate the travel. The railroad officials declare the present schedule is ample to meet the demands.

State Safe Withstands

Work of Four Yeggmen

DES MOINES, Feb. 25.—Four robbers bound and gagged two night watchmen in the office of the State treasurer, in the Statehouse, and worked for hours on the big steel safe containing \$5,000, but failed to force an entrance.

They escaped when daylight came.

Wanted His \$2,000,000.

Claiming the government owed him \$2,000,000, and that President Wilson would pay it, George Mitchell, giving his address as 16 Woodbury street, Rochester, N. Y., was found this morning in the White House grounds by James Sloan, of the Secret Service. The man was sent to the Washington Asylum.

IF YOU LIKE THE MOVIES

Read the Story in The Times Then See it in the Moving Picture Theaters

The Washington Times has just completed negotiations for the daily publication of stories of the best moving picture films made by the great producing companies of the country in advance of their showing in local moving picture theaters.

THESE STORIES ARE NOT CONFINED TO THE FILMS OF ONE COMPANY, BUT COVER ALL THE BEST FILMS, WHOEVER MAKES THEM

Every day The Times will print the stories of one or more films that are being shown in Washington or will be shown within a few days. These stories are written by representatives of The Times who have the special privilege of seeing advance exhibitions of the reels. In addition to the stories will be portraits of the leading actors and actresses appearing in the plays.

THERE WILL BE A NEW STORY AND A NEW PICTURE GIVEN EVERY DAY

The Series Will Begin Thursday and Will Appear Daily and Exclusively in The Times

CENSURE FOR WAGNER, SEVERE CRITICISM GIVEN PROCTOR

Report Says His Interference With Legisla-
tion Borders on Serious Insubordina-
tion—Urges Better Pension System,
But Fails to Make Definite Recom-
mendation For Rules Revision.

Holding Deputy Chief Andrew J. Sullivan not guilty of the charges of inefficiency and neglect in his handling of the fire at the American Five and Ten Cent Store on December 24, and placing the responsibility for the failure to discover the presence of the five injured firemen in the building, for more than an hour after the collapse, on Chief Engineer Frank J. Wagner, the trial board in the Sullivan case today submitted its findings to the Commissioners.

The board suggests that the Commissioners censure those witnesses whose testimony at the hearing differed materially from that given by them before Commissioner Siddons at the secret inquiry.

Dealing with Battalion Chief Charles B. Proctor, the board declares that his general bearing and testimony at the hearing indicated serious insubordination on his part. Proctor is also formally charged with endeavoring to defeat legislation recommended by his superiors.

Referring to Chief Engineer Wagner, the findings of the trial board set forth that "he did not exercise that physical and mental activity which the duties of his position call for" at the Ten Cent Store fire.

In this connection the board directs attention to the necessity for having an adequate pension fund for the Fire Department.

TWO ALTERNATIVES OPEN.

WILSON NOT TO SEND MESSAGE ON TOLLS

Letter to Some House Leader
Is Expected to Explain His
Canal Policy.

Following conferences this morning between President Wilson and Congressmen Sherley and Palmer, it became known that the President is contemplating sending a letter to one of the leaders in the House, in lieu of a special message, explaining his reasons for asking the repeal of the tolls exemption provision in the Panama canal act.

Congressmen Palmer and Sherley both fought the provision when the legislation was up in the last Congress and fought an endorsement of it by the Democratic platform. They told the President that they believed the House would pass the repeal measure.

Congressman Palmer was accompanied to the White House by his father-in-law, Robert B. Dixon, of Easton, Md., who has shaken hands with every President of the United States since the time of William Henry Harrison.

Comes Here for Visit;

Weds a Washington Man

Miss Harriet Isenell, daughter of Mrs. Robert Russell, of St. Louis, was married to J. Ormond Graham, son of Mrs. Andrew B. Graham, of this city, last evening at the parsonage of St. Paul's Catholic Church.

The wedding was attended by a small party of relatives and friends. Miss Isenell was in Washington visiting her sister, a student in a young ladies' school. She met Mr. Graham during her visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Graham probably will make their home in St. Louis, when they return from a wedding trip.

Vollmer Sworn In.

Congressman Henry Vollmer, successor to the late Congressman Pepper of Iowa, was formally sworn in to the House this afternoon.

The Commissioners are under the necessity of forcing a man to retire after long years of faithful service with an inadequate provision for his livelihood or of continuing him in the service with the responsibility of his physical and mental powers, the report says.

Following is the report in full:

"To the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

"Sirs: The board appointed by you in Commissioners' order of January 21, 1914, to try Deputy Chief Andrew J. Sullivan upon charges and specifications preferred by the Commissioners, has the honor to submit the following:

"First—In many cases the testimony of the witnesses before this board differed materially from that given by them before Commissioner Siddons. This shows a lack of appreciation of the necessity of care and accuracy in making reports to a superior, and is censurable.

"Second—Firemen were permitted to remain buried in the ruins of the fire at the Five and Ten Cent Store, on the morning of December 24, 1913, for a period of approximately an hour after the collapse of a portion of said building, due to the failure of the chief engineer of the Fire Department to sufficiently inform himself respecting the positions of the various companies. It was the duty of the chief engineer to ascertain the locations and disposition of the various companies at the fire and upon the collapse of a portion of the building to ascertain whether or not all the men under his command were accounted for. He did not exercise that physical and mental activity which the duties of his position call for.

"Adequate Pension Fund.

"In this connection the board is strongly impressed with the necessity of having provision for an adequate pension fund for the Fire Department.

"Under the present state of the law, when a man, after years of faithful and efficient service, reaches an age at which he should retire from active duty, the Commissioners are under the necessity of either forcing him to retire with uncertain and inadequate provision for his livelihood, or continuing him in the service with responsibilities and duties calling for the exercise of physical and mental powers inconsistent with his age and physical and mental condition. The detrimental effect upon the service of such a condition of affairs is obvious.

"Fourth—The testimony of Battalion Chief Charles B. Proctor developed the fact that he has endeavored to secure the defeat of legislation recommending the repeal of the tolls exemption provision of the Panama canal act, in his annual report and testimony before this board indicate serious insubordination.

"Fifth—Record of hearings is submitted herewith.

Chief Wagner, when informed of the